

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A battery casing (1) comprising a lid (3) having a top surface and a recess (12) inset into the said top surface, a vent (17) at the base of the recess through which gas is expelled from the battery, a cover (25) having opposite ends for sealingly covering said recess, sealing means to provide a seal between the cover and the recess, a gas collection space being defined within the covered recess, and a gas guide means (43) formed integrally with and in one position within the cover for guiding gas from the collection space away from the battery through one end of the cover, wherein the cover and therefore the gas guide means may be positioned in more than one orientation to the battery casing.

2. (original) A battery casing according to Claim 1, comprising a plurality of vents (17) at the base of the recess, one for each of the battery cells.

3. (previously presented) A battery casing according to Claim 1, wherein the top surface of the cover lies no higher than the adjacent surface of the battery.

4. (previously presented) A battery casing according to Claim 1 wherein the guide means comprises a nozzle protruding from the cover and to which a flexible tube may be attached.

5. (original) A battery casing according to Claim 4, wherein the lid has a channel (23, 24) extending from the recess in which the guide means is located.

6. (original) A battery casing according to Claim 5, wherein the lid has a plurality of channels extending from the recess in at least one of which the guide means is located.

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7. (previously presented) A battery casing according to Claim 1, wherein the cover is removable from the lid.

8. (previously presented) A battery casing according to Claim 1 wherein the cover and the lid each has two straight parallel sides and two semi-circular ends, the guide means being located in the middle of one semi-circular end of the lid.

9. (cancelled)

10. (new) A battery casing (1) comprising a lid (3) having a top surface and a recess (12) inset into the said top surface, a vent (17) at the base of the recess through which gas is expelled from the battery, a cover (25) having opposite ends for sealingly covering said recess, sealing means to provide a seal between the cover and the recess, a gas collection space being defined within the covered recess, and a gas guide (43) formed integrally with and in one position within the cover for guiding gas from the collection space away from the battery through one end of the cover, wherein the cover and therefore the gas guide means may be positioned in more than one orientation to the battery casing.

11. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 10, comprising a plurality of vents (17) at the base of the recess, one for each of the battery cells.

12. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 10, wherein the top surface of the cover lies no higher than the adjacent surface of the battery.

13. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 10, wherein the guide comprises a nozzle protruding from the cover and to which a flexible tube may be attached.

14. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 13, wherein the lid has a channel (23, 24) extending from the recess in which the guide is located.

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15. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 14, wherein the lid has a plurality of channels extending from the recess in at least one of which the guide is located.

16. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 10, wherein the cover is removable from the lid.

17. (new) A battery casing according to Claim 10, wherein the cover and the lid each has two straight parallel sides and two semi-circular ends, the guide being located in the middle of one semi-circular end of the lid.